

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House appropriations bill that would fund the U.S. Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development moved one step closer to passage on Wednesday as the House voted 270-147 to approve the House-Senate conference report.

**Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel) is responsible for almost \$11 million in the bill that would go to the Central Coast. Of the total, \$9 million would come from Rep. Farr's instructions to release funds for the Prunedale Bypass. The rest is included in four transportation projects and an affordable housing site.**

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"All of us who call the Central Coast home know that traffic and affordable housing are two of our biggest challenges," **Rep. Farr** said. "Providing funds for these projects is crucial to provide for the continued livability and economic success of our region."

#### **Program details:**

- **\$9 million for the Prunedale Bypass. Instructions in the bill will clarify congressional intent for the project, originally funded in 1992. Caltrans states the term "bypass" limits the scope of work to the actual bypass. The new language will allow for a broader interpretation for the funds.**
- **\$500,000 for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, a multi-use pathway that will eventually link 52 miles of existing and newly established trail segments around the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.**
- **\$500,000 for the Pacific Station Multimodal-Multiuse Facility in Santa Cruz, which will link Santa Cruz Transit with Greyhound and Amtrak and allow development of a commercial plaza, affordable housing and child care facilities.**
- **\$500,000 for the Airport Blvd./Highway 101 interchange project.**
- **\$200,000 for Monterey Salinas Transit to put toward leveraged, multi-year debt financing for the purchase of new clean diesel buses.**
- **\$200,000 to work on transforming the historic Salz Tannery into 100 units of affordable rental housing.**

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"Airport Boulevard suffers tremendous truck traffic congestion in the major food-packaging district of Salinas, with 2,700 trucks per day traveling through the area in the peak season," said **Salinas City Councilmember Jyl Lutes**. "We appreciate all the work Congressman Farr has made to get these funds approved."

**Monterey County 2nd District Supervisor Louis Calcagno, also a member of the Transportation Agency of Monterey County, said of the Prunedale Bypass funds: "This makes the project financially complete. We need these safety improvements and I sure hope the president signs it."**

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The Senate will vote on the conference version of the bill, which will then be sent to the president for signing.

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